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the rock-cut tombs, the tents, the camels, the Bedouins with their long guns, the lateen sails upon the river, and the mountains in the hazy distance.

"I shall be pardoned if I next submit a brief companion picture of the prominent species to be met with in June at such a lake as the Faioum (Birket-el-Korn). First, the little long-tailed African cormorant goes by with straight, undeviating flight, like one who knows what place he wants to go to and is going there, leaving behind him the wanton terns, who have no object in life but lightly to sport over the water as they watch for their finny prey, assured that the warm sun will take care to incubate their eggs. In noisy conclave the buff-backed herons trim their nests, and the shyer squacco is uneasy at any disturbance the meaning of which he does not understand, while the cautious egret takes his stick away again, wisely jealous of revealing the whereabouts of his yet unfinished edifice. The Dalmatian pelican swims away with all sail set, or flaps and glides and flaps and glides over the water, his huge form mirrored on the surface, startling the basking fish, which hurry from the presence of their enemy. Marbled ducks in pairs rise from among the sedges; agile grebes put their trust in diving; the tall reeds quiver as the green-backed porphyrio seeks their friendly shelter; the reed warbler sounds a loud alarm. All fly to the nearest cover and in those thick beds they find a secure haven."

BOUCARD'S CATALOGUE OF BIRDS.¹—This useful list gives the names and localities of all known living birds, numbering 11,030 species in 2456 genera, though in the author's opinion "many of these genera and species must be eventually abolished." The subgenera are placed as genera, and M. Boucard believes that it does harm to ornithological science "to multiply the genera and the subgenera, as it has been the practice to do lately." The classification followed is a new one, beginning with the *Struthionæ*, the lowest living forms, and ending with the humming-birds, which the author regards as the most recent and probably the most perfectly organized birds. Four new "orders" are proposed, namely, *Palamedææ* for *Palamedea*, *Chauna*, and *Ischyornis*; *Pterocles* for the *Pteroclidæ*; *Phænicopteri* for *Phænicopterus*; and *Trochili* for the humming-birds. As a check-list for exchanges and arranging museums we doubt not the book will be found to be very convenient.

THE WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA.²—It is a singular fact that many of our more common and beautiful wild flowers have never been figured, and we are glad that in the present series an attempt is to be made

¹ *Catalogus Avium hucusque Descriptorum*. Auctor ADOLPHUS BOUCARD. Londini. 1876. For sale at 35 Great Russell Street, London, W. C.; and by S. C. Cassino, Salem, Mass.

² *The Wild Flowers of America*. Illustrations by ISAAC SPRAGUE. Text by GEORGE L. GOODALE, M. D., Assistant Professor of Vegetable Physiology, and Instructor in Botany in Harvard University. Part I. Boston: H. O. Houghton & Co.; New York: Hurd and Houghton.